



# The 2006 Environmental Stewardship Award

## Governor's Award For Excellence in Greenways and Trails:

### **City of Cookeville's Tennessee Central Heritage Trail through Putnam County**

The Tennessee Central Heritage Trail is a rail-with-trail greenway that links recreational, cultural, and natural amenities from Cookeville to Monterey. The 19-mile trail will begin in the downtown Cookeville area, continue through Algood, and end in Monterey. This innovative project will connect three distinct communities and create a multi-use, non-motorized trail for walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Cookeville Mayor Chuck Womack and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Excellence in Agriculture and Forestry Award:

### **University of Tennessee Forest Resources Center's Horneyhead Creek Restoration; Morgan County**

The Horneyhead Creek Restoration Project improved the water quality and habitat of 3,100 feet of creek bank as well as providing better access for forestry operations. The project utilized six different streambank stabilization methods including traditional and innovative methods. The Restoration Project has been utilized as an educational, training, and outreach tool for forest managers.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, University of Tennessee Agricultural Experimentation Manager Martin Schubert, University of Tennessee Forest Resources Center Director Richard Evans and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Excellence in Aquatic Resource Preservation Award:

### **Red River Watershed Association's Visual Stream Assessments of Impaired Streams in Montgomery, Robertson and Sumner Counties**

The Red River Watershed Association (RRWA) conducted 115 visual stream surveys along impaired streams in the Tennessee portion of the watershed in order to identify specific sources of pollutants and prioritize the implementation of best management practices with the overall goal to improve the water quality of these stream segments. The project also served as an excellent educational and outreach opportunity, as the RRWA liaised with and educated local landowners living in proximity to the streams and trained volunteers completed the assessments.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Red River Watershed Association Executive Director Lindsay Bland and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Excellence in Energy Leadership Award:

### **Panther Creek State Park's Energy Conservation program; Morristown**

Panther Creek State Park initiated an energy management project to reduce energy consumption through the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs, electronic ballasts and automatic light shut-offs. Panther Creek also implemented system measures that allow the park to track energy consumption as an assessment tool. The program resulted in a \$6,600 savings in energy costs the first year which equates to a 26 percent reduction.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Panther Creek State Park Administrative Assistant Sherry Johnson, Panther Creek State Park Ranger Jason Chadwell and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Excellence in Environmental Education & Outreach Award:

### **Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont; Townsend**

The Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is a residential environmental learning center located within the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This non-profit organization provides educational programs that increase the awareness, appreciation, and understanding of our natural and cultural resources and promote environmental stewardship utilizing over twenty miles of trail intersecting diverse forest types, streams, and geologic formations. In 2005, the learning center hosted 122 groups with over 5,000 residential participants throughout the year.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont Executive Director Ken Voorhis and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Excellence in Natural Heritage Conservation Award:

### **Stones River National Battlefield Restoration; Murfreesboro**

The Stones River National Battlefield worked throughout 2005 to remove exotic species on nearly all of the 650 acres maintained by the park. They enlisted the help of volunteers and received more than 2,000 hours of time dedicated to managing park resources. The the park staff and volunteers worked on three project days to remove exotic species, plant seed for native species and build fences to replicate the original battlefield appearance.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Stones River National Battlefield Ecologist Terri Hogan, Stones River National Battlefield Operations Chief Gib Backlund, Stones River Superintendent Stuart Johnson and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Excellence in Parks and Recreation Award:

### **Native Butterfly Garden at Burgess Falls State Park, Putnam/White County**

This site is a 20,000 square foot native butterfly garden planted at Burgess Falls State Natural Area that reduces mowing, restores native vegetation, enhances the aesthetics of the park and improves interpretive programming for park visitors and school groups. With support from the Iris Fund, park staff worked with several volunteer groups to plant and maintain approximately 3,000 native plants representing over 70 native species and move over 370 cubic yards of mulch. This partnership also produced garden enhancements by installing a bridge, walking path and two benches.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Burgess Falls Park Manager Bill Summers, Burgess Falls Park Ranger Jeremy Vaden and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Excellence in Pollution Prevention Award:

### **Vanderbilt University's Workplace Commuters Project; Nashville**

Staff from numerous departments at Vanderbilt University worked together to develop a comprehensive commuter program to to reduce pollution, decrease commuting costs, alleviate traffic congestion, and remove a source of employee stress. Programs to reduce commuter impacts include a free ride program on MTA buses, a parking cost distribution program for carpoolers, on site amenities including a convenience center and concierge service, and special provisions for bicyclists including access to showers and convenient bike storage areas. The "Free Ride to Work" program saw a 1,000 increase growing from 110 users to more than 1,300 users.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Vanderbilt Vice-Chancellor Michael Schoenfeld, Vanderbilt Associate Director for Environmental Health and Safety Andrea George and Commissioner Jim Fyke



## Governor's Award for Excellence in Hazardous Waste Management: *Large Generator*

### **Fort Campbell's Pollution Prevention Operation Center; Fort Campbell, KY/TN**

By establishing the Pollution Prevention Operation Center, Fort Campbell has achieved greater environmental responsibility, improved mission readiness and deployment capability, and has reduced overall expenses. The center manages hazardous materials for 135 units supporting 20,000 Fort Campbell soldiers during day-to-day operations and deployment situations. By combining education, source reduction techniques, and recycling Fort Campbell has reduced the amount of hazardous waste disposed at the base by 84.6% during the past decade; a 90.1% disposal cost reduction since 1992.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, U.S. Army Solid Waste Program Manager Bill Baggett, Fort Campbell Pollution Prevention Branch Chief Mike Davis and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Governor's Award for Excellence in Hazardous Waste Management: *Small Generator*

### **Hamilton County School Chemical Cleanout Campaign; Chattanooga**

Hamilton County took decisive action to protect student's health and the environment when they realized the threat presented by a legacy of old laboratory chemicals in their schools. With matching funding from two EPA grants and technical support from Environment and Conservation's School Chemical Cleanout Campaign program, Hamilton County undertook the daunting task of removing outdated, unwanted, and unstable chemicals from the entire school system. Eighty-one schools were inventoried and 3,662 pounds of chemicals, including 90 pounds of mercury, were removed from 15 Hamilton County schools.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Hamilton County Safety and Compliance Inspector Frank Bilbrey and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award:

### Virginia “Happy” Birdsong

For more than fifty years the vivacious spirit, humor, and fearless sense of adventure have combined with Happy Birdsong’s love of outdoors to benefit Tennessee communities. From parks in Madison to lakes at Old Hickory and Percy Priest, her work with young people has touched lives while making our world more fun and beautiful. For more than 50 years Happy impacted thousands of young women through your leadership with Girl Scouts of America. Through words and deeds she encouraged Girl Scout troops to care for themselves, care for others and care for their shared environment. Along with her lasting impact through Girl Scouts, she served the community through membership on the Metro Beautification and Environment Commission, Keep Tennessee Beautiful and The Friends of Metro Beautification and Environment Commission Council.

People in many quarters noticed her achievements, and she received the highest possible honors awarded from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Keep America Beautiful. In her honor, groups have celebrated her leadership and dedication with the establishment of the Happy Birdsong Girl Scout Environmental Award, the building of the Friendship Bridge and the naming of the “Happy Birdsong Nature Trail” at Sycamore Girl Scout Camp.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Virginia “Happy” Birdsong and Commissioner Jim Fyke celebrate Happy receiving the 2006 Robert R. Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville.

## Governor’s Award for Excellence in Building Green

### Cumberland River Compact’s Building Outside the Box (BOB) project; Nashville

Building Outside the Box (BOB) is a program of the Cumberland River Compact’s Land Committee. BOB demonstrates cost-effective green building methods that protect water quality and quantity. BOB began with a series of education conferences and evolved, with help of an EPA Watershed Initiative Grant, to a implementation and education project demonstrating sustainable building practices on three impaired streams at four different sites.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Franklin Stormwater Management Coordinator Don Green, Cumberland River Compact “Building Outside the Box” Program Director Gwen Griffith, Central Basin Resource Conservation & Development Council Member Carol Edwards and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Green Schools Award for Higher Education:

### **Rhodes College Bike Program; Memphis**

The Rhodes College Environmental Planning Cooperative established the campus's first bicycle program allowing students or faculty to borrow bicycles for use on and off campus free of charge. Many students live near to campus, but have traditionally relied on cars for transportation for attending class and collegiate activities. The program accomplishes many goals environmentally as well as for the college, including reducing automobile emissions, freeing up parking on campus, and getting students actively involved in environmental stewardship.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Rhodes College student Michelle Green, Rhodes College Associate Director of Physical Plant Tracy Adkisson and Commissioner Jim Fyke

## Green Schools Award for K-12:

### **Huntingdon Primary School “Cash for Trash” program; Huntingdon**

Huntingdon Primary School's 3rd Grade “Wiser Miser” Energy Team continues to lead the way in environmental education, awareness, outreach, action, and service in Carroll County by providing mentoring to local schools, churches, businesses, and the citizens of Huntingdon. The industrious eight member energy team's “Cash for Trash” paper drive has recycled 32,000 pounds of paper with the ongoing cooperation of local schools, churches, businesses, and families. The group has also generated \$800 in revenue and donated \$550 of this amount to PROJECT HELP to help pay electric bills for the needy.



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Huntingdon Primary School Teacher Denise Pendergrass, Huntingdon Primary School students Whitney Barnhill, Katelyn Yundt and Reese Hopper and Commissioner Jim Fyke